Teach Your Children:

- ✗ Never leave the yard without your permission. Very small children should play only in the backyard or in a supervised play area.
- ✗ Not to wander off, to avoid lonely places, and not to take shortcuts through alleys or deserted areas.
- ✗ They are safer walking or playing with friends.
- ✗ Always to come straight home from school unless you've made other arrangements.
- ✗ Never to enter anyone's home without your prior approval (exception: a block parent or safe house).

- ✗ To scream, run away and tell you or a trusted adult if anyone attempts to touch or grab them.
- ✗ Not to give any information over the telephone, particularly their name and address, or the fact that they are alone.
- ✗ Never to go anywhere with anyone who does not know the family code word.
- ✗ To keep all doors locked and admit only authorized people into the house.

Parent Guidelines

- ✗ Know where your children are at all times.
- ✗ Never leave children alone in cars.
- ✗ Establish strict procedures for picking children up at school, after movies, at friends' homes, etc. Don't let your children accept rides from people with whom you haven't made prior arrangements, even if they say they are police officers, teachers or friends of the family.
- ✗ Teach your children their full names, your full name, address, and telephone number. Teach them how to reach either you or a trusted adult and how to call for police assistance. Make sure they know how to make local and long-distance telephone calls. Even small children can learn to dial 9-1-1 or 0 for an operator to get help.

- ✗ Tell your children about the abduction problem in a calm and simple way, as if you were teaching any other important coping skill.
- ✗ Listen attentively when your children discuss anyone they've encountered in your absence.
- ✗ Have photographs taken of your children four times a year (especially for preschoolers). Make note of birthmarks or other distinguishing features.
- ✗ Have fingerprints taken of your children. Most law enforcement agencies have child fingerprint programs.

Importance of Practice

Play roles with your children to teach them how to respond. If properly prepared, they can automatically take the right action when in danger. It is important to maintain practice sessions as children grow older. For example, a 9-year-old may forget or ignore what he or she knew at age 7.

Profile of A Molester

Among the several types of child molesters are non-family members who engage in force or violence against a child, such as kidnapping or rape. These suspects are almost always male. The recidivism rate of child molesters is among the highest of all crimes.

✗ **How a victim is chosen:** The typical child molester seeks vulnerable children; he tends to gravitate to places where he can observe many children. These include schools, playgrounds, movie theaters, arcades, public restrooms, libraries, parks and public swimming pools.

✗ **Who is at risk:** He may prefer a certain type of child but will not confine himself to that type if he has a better opportunity to attack others.

Thousands of children are reported missing every year in America. Some children will be found and returned home. Some will not.

Child abduction is a tragedy that devastates parents and touches all of us. This brochure tells you how to keep your children safe.

Emergency Numbers

911 or 0

Police/Fire/ Ambulance _____

Doctor _____

Parents' Work Numbers _____

_____

Close Relative _____

Close Friend _____

School _____

Poison Control Center _____

(Post the above numbers by the telephone.)

Senator George Runner

Capitol Office
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814
tel 916.651.4017 • fax 916.445.4662
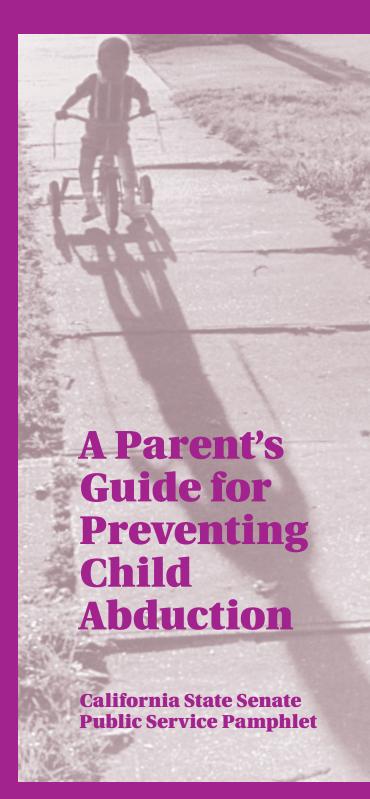
District Offices
848 W. Lancaster Blvd., Suite 101
Lancaster, CA 93534
tel 661.729.6232 • fax 661.729.1683

23920 Valencia Blvd., Suite 250
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
tel 661.286.1471 / 1472 • fax 661.286.2543

14343 Civic Drive, 1st Floor
Victorville, CA 92392
tel 760.843.8414 • fax 760.843.8348

senator.runner@sen.ca.gov

www.sen.ca.gov/runner

A Parent's Guide for Preventing Child Abduction

**California State Senate
Public Service Pamphlet**